

The Exile

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY
MAGAZINE 2012-13
OF LONDON IRISH

vs. GLOUCESTER RUGBY
AMLIN CHALLENGE CUP: ROUND 3
08/12/2012 KICK OFF: 3PM



INSTANT CLASSIC

Jamie Gibson tells 'The Exile' that London Irish have the perfect blend of youth and experience to prosper

TOP DRAWER

With the World Cup Pools now on the table, did England's great victory over New Zealand flatter to deceive?

Amlin Challenge Cup ROUND 3

Amlin **FedEx**



Amlin
Challenge
Cup



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THE OPPOSITION

GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Gloucester Rugby's season so far has been an eventful one, but one that augurs well for the future.

Director of Rugby Nigel Davies has steadied the ship since his arrival in the summer and, in a remarkably short period of time, moulded Gloucester into a competitive, difficult to beat outfit.

It's not been easy. The injury list has, at times, been crippling. Yet the former Scarlets man has skillfully juggled his resources and managed to remain competitive on all fronts.

The Aviva Premiership has,

of course, been the bread and butter for the club and the Cherry and Whites currently occupy fifth position in the table.

A disappointing home reverse on the opening day of the season against Northampton was quickly forgotten, and the team have gone on to take some notable scalps.

Form on the road, in particular, has been better than in seasons gone by, and a rare victory here at the Madejski was achieved back in September. Even the two defeats, at Harlequins and Saracens, have garnered losing bonus points.

But this afternoon is all about the Amlin Challenge Cup, and the pool already looks to be a shoot out between London Irish and Gloucester.

Both teams have two wins from two matches so far, although the Exiles lead the group by a point. These back to back matches will go a long way to determining the destiny of the pool.

With a Heineken Cup spot up for grabs for the winners of the tournament, it's a competition which deserves focus and attention and both teams will be up for the fight this afternoon.

LAST TIME OUT

LONDON IRISH 31
Gloucester Rugby 40

Our Aviva curtain raiser at the Madejski was certainly a thriller with both sides contributing to a compelling spectacle.

Gloucester prospect and recent England debutant Freddie Burns was the star for the visitors with a frightening 25 point tally at the close.

A back and forth battle ebbed and flowed, with tries for the Exiles from Ojo, O'Leary and Aulika warming the cockles of the home faithful, but Gloucester rallied and put in a blistering last quarter, scoring crucially through Simpson-Daniel and Qera to break Irish hearts.



ONE TO WATCH

Tom Savage



For a man who was playing in the National Leagues not so very long ago, Tom Savage has come a long way in a short period of time.

The 23 year old came to Gloucester's attention when he skippered Hartpury RFC in 2010-11, and he made a quick impression when invited to train with the first team.

The Rugby World Cup gave him an opportunity to taste first team action quicker than he may have originally expected, but he seized the chance with both hands and went on to make 12 starts in 2011-12.

He's already well on his way to surpassing that total this season. A regular in the starting line up, whether at blindside flanker or in the second row, he is producing high quality performances on a weekly basis.

Earlier this season, team mate James Simpson-Daniel said Savage reminded him of Richard Hill – that's not a bad player to be compared with!

HEAD COACH

Nigel Davies



Nigel Davies joined Gloucester Rugby as Director of Rugby in June 2012.

Davies was the Head Coach at Welsh region the Scarlets since June 2008.

The Llanelli born and bred centre won 29 caps for his country between 1988 and 1997, before joining the Welsh national coaching set up under Gareth Jenkins. Davies is one of the very few Welsh players to have both coached and captained his country.

As a player of undisputed talent, he played 498 games for Llanelli becoming one of only 21 players to have scored more than 100 tries for the Scarlets where he also played in a record nine Welsh cup finals, winning six.

He has been associated with top-flight rugby for more than 28 years as a player and then coach.

He returned to the Scarlets as Head Coach in May 2008 leading the development of the Scarlets squad which includes the emergence onto the regional and international scene today of some of Wales' most exciting new rugby talent.

THE PLAYERS

TODAY'S TEAMS

**LONDON
IRISH**



VS



**GLOUCESTER
RUGBY**

TOM HOMER	15	MARTYN THOMAS
TOPSY OJO	14	SHANE MONAHAN
GUY ARMITAGE	13	TIM MOLENAAR
SHANE GERAGHTY	12	MIKE TINDALL
SAIOSI TAGICAKIBAU	11	SHANE MONAHAN
IAN HUMPHREYS	10	TIM TAYLOR
DARREN ALLINSON	09	DAN ROBSON
MAX LAHIFF	01	NICK WOOD
DAVID PAICE	02	DARREN DAWIDIUK
HALANI AULIKA	03	SHAUN KNIGHT
BRYN EVANS	04	TOM SAVAGE
MATT GARVEY	05	WILL JAMES
DECLAN DANAHER (C)	06	PETER BUXTON (C)
JAMIE GIBSON	07	MATT COX
OFISA TREVIRANUS	08	SIONE KALAMAFONI
SCOTT LAWSON	16	KOREE BRITTON
ALEX CORBISIERO	17	DAN MURPHY
LEO HALAVATAU	18	RUPERT HARDEN
GEORGE SKIVINGTON	19	JIM HAMILTON
JEBB SINCLAIR	20	GARETH EVANS
ANTHONY WATSON	21	DAVE LEWIS
STEVE SHINGLER	22	FREDDIE BURNS
JACK MOATES	23	ROB COOK

THE OFFICIALS

REFEREE: Dudley Phillips (Irl)

ASSISTANT REFEREES: Olly Hodges (Irl), Barrie O'Connell (Irl)

Amlin Challenge Cup

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